

Resolution No.: 17-912
Introduced: September 24, 2013
Adopted: October 15, 2013

**COUNTY COUNCIL
FOR MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND**

By: Council President Navarro, Council Vice President Rice, Councilmembers Andrews,
Berliner, Elrich, Ervin, Floreen, Leventhal, and Riemer

SUBJECT: Affirming the Council's commitment to anti-poverty and safety net programs

Background

1. According to the Maryland Community Action Partnership (MCAP)'s report, "Self Sufficiency Standard for Maryland," Montgomery County is among the most expensive places in the nation to raise a family.
2. MCAP estimates that the "self-sufficiency standard" for Montgomery County is \$36.90 per hour for a family consisting of one parent, one preschooler, and one school age child.
3. According to the U.S. Census, the median household income in Montgomery County from 2007-2011 was \$95,660. During that same period, 6.3% of Montgomery County residents were living at or below the poverty level of \$18,530 for a family of four.
4. Through the annual budget process, the Council has supported policies and programs to encourage job creation and support Montgomery County's most economically vulnerable residents.
5. Since the Great Recession, the Council has placed a special focus on programs and services that provide support to low-income residents. For example, the Council has directed the Grants Advisory Group to prioritize applications that "provide emergency and other assistance to the neediest members of our community."
6. Montgomery County funds a wide variety of programs that assist the most economically vulnerable residents, including:
 - a. Montgomery Cares/Care for Kids
 - b. Working Parents Assistance
 - c. Linkages to Learning and School-Based Health Centers
 - d. Wellness Centers
 - e. Pre-K and Head Start

- f. Community-based Pre-K
 - g. Youth Opportunity Centers
 - h. VITA Tax Assistance Program
 - i. Rental Assistance Program (RAP)
 - j. Rent Supplement Program
 - k. Energy Assistance Program
 - l. RecExtra
 - m. Excel Beyond the Bell
 - n. Sports Academies
 - o. Teen Escape Club
 - p. Student/Teen Employment Program (STEP)
 - q. Financial Aid/Scholarships for Recreation Services
 - r. Tutoring Programs
 - s. College Prep Services
 - t. Mentoring Programs
 - u. Afterschool Programming
 - v. English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Classes
 - w. Working Families Income Supplement (WFIS)
7. The County's non-profit community also provides a critical life-line for residents who are living in poverty and those who are struggling to make ends meet. In addition, non-profits are uniquely positioned to make every dollar invested go further because they can leverage additional funding streams beyond what government can provide. In fiscal year 2013, there were 395 county-funded contracts with non-profit providers valued at over \$56 million that funded health and human services programs.

Action

The County Council for Montgomery County, Maryland approves the following resolution:

- 1. The Council affirms its commitment to funding anti-poverty programs and our non-profit providers that support the most economically vulnerable residents of Montgomery County.
- 2. The Council supports an expansion of the economic safety-net for residents who are unemployed and underemployed.
- 3. The Council supports a funding match of the State Earned Income Tax Credit through the County's Working Families Income Supplement at the highest County match possible. Furthermore, the Council supports increasing the State match to the federal Earned Income Tax Credit to 30%.
- 4. The Council urges the General Assembly to increase the State Minimum Wage to at least \$10 an hour by 2015.

5. The Council affirms its commitment to supporting the work of County agencies, such as Montgomery County Public Schools and the Housing Opportunities Commission, that provide services for Montgomery County's most economically vulnerable populations.
6. The Council reaffirms its support for positive youth development programs targeting youth from low-income families.
7. The Council reaffirms its support for healthcare programs targeting low-income children and families.
8. The Council reaffirms its support for maintaining full funding for existing early childhood services from birth through age five and expanding preschool for all children whose family income is at or below 300 percent of the Federal poverty level and communities with greatest need.
9. The Council reaffirms its support for the Working Parents Assistance Program to make quality childcare more affordable by subsidizing part of the cost of childcare of income eligible families.
10. The Council reaffirms its commitment to progressive taxation and policies that mitigate the impact of regressive taxes.

This is a correct copy of Council action.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Linda M. Lauer".

Linda M. Lauer, Clerk of the Council